

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

OMB-01 SAB-01 IO-10 SCS-03 SCA-01 AID-05 EB-07 FAA-00

DOT-00 /104 W

----- 059802

O R 041200Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5122

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8474

DEPT FOR WLG

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: BEIRUT OUTWARDLY CALM; LEFTISTS IN OPPOSITION

REF: BEIRUT 8420

1. LEBANESE CAPITAL GIVES EVERY APPEARANCE OF CALM MORNING JULY 4 AS IT EMERGED FROM NIGHT MARRED ONLY BY HALF DOZEN EXPLOSIONS. INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES, IN EVIDENCE THROUGHOUT CITY, HAVE ANNOUNCED COMPLETION OF MOP-UP OPERATIONS IN AIN RUMMANNEH/SHIA AND WILL REPORTEDLY TURN THEIR ATTENTIONS TODAY TO PACIFICATION OF NABAA AREA BETWEEN SINN AL FIL AND DEKWANEH. BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS TRAFFIC NORMAL IN BEIRUT AND SUBURBS (FBIS JN040550Y).

2. TRIPOLI REMAINS TENSE THIS MORNING FOLLOWING OVERNIGHT CLASHES BETWEEN ELEMENTS OF "OCTOBER 22 MOVEMENT" (LED BY FAROUK MOUKADDAM) AND CHRISTIAN INHABITANTS OF NEARBY ZGHORTA, BUT ADDITIONAL SECURITY FORCES WERE RUSHED TO SCENE AND NO REPEAT NO FURTHER REPORTS OF CASUALTIES IN THAT REGION. TOTAL NUMBER KILLED IN BEIRUT JULY AS RESULT OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS GIVEN AS FOUR.

3. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, KARAME CABINET HELD ITS FIRST SESSION JULY 3 UNDER LEADERSHIP OF PRES. FRANGIE. MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS, NATURALLY, SECURITY SITUATION WITH RECENT UPSURGE OF KIDNAPPINGS DOMINATING MEETING. RE-INTRODUCTION OF ABDUCTION TACTICS (WHICH REACHED GRISLY PROPORTIONS DURING LATE MAY/EARLY JUNE ROUND OF CLASHES) HAS APPARENTLY OCCURRED SINCE REPEAT SINCE DECLARATION OF CEASEFIRE JULY 1. HUSSEIN AS SADR, WHO HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH EXCHANGES OF HOSTAGES BOTH IN APRIL AND MAY/JUNE HOSTILITIES, TOLD EMBOFF JULY 2 THAT LAST ROUND HAD BEEN REMARKABLE BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF KIDNAPPINGS. PERHAPS EVEN MORE THAN SNIPING AND BOMBINGS, KIDNAPPING TECHNIQUE HAS POTENTIAL FOR QUICKLY RE-AROUSING PASSIONS OF VARIOUS PARTIES. GOL, THEREFORE, IS RIGHTLY CONVERNED WITH NEW TREND

AND INTERIOR MINISTER CHAMOUN HAS WARNED OF GRAVE CONSEQUENCES IF ABDUCTIONS DO NOT REPEAT NOT CEASE. (AMERICAN JOURNALIST HAS TOLD US THAT BRIEF CLOSURE JULY 3 OF MAIN ROAD THROUGH FURN ASH SHUBAK (PARA 2, REFTTEL) WAS OCCASIONED BY KIDNAPPING OF THREE CHAMOUNISTS SUBSEQUENTLY RECOVERED MUCH THE WORSE FOR WAR). RAYMOND EDDE, LEADER OF NATIONAL BLOC AND POLITICAL ALLY OF KARAME AND SAEB SALAM, HAS CALLED FOR REVIVAL OF 1959 LAW MAKING KIDNAPPING A CAPITAL CRIME AND LEADING DAILY AN NAHAR (PUBLISHED BY GHASSAN TUEINI) CALLED FOR "SETTING UP THE GAOOLOWS" TO DEAL WITH ABDUCTORS.

4. AS ANTICIPATED, LEFTIST GRUPS MET EVENING JULY 3 AT MAKASSED AND EMERGED INOPPOSITION TO KARAME CABINET WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS "REACTIONARY" AND "ISOLATIONIST". CABAL ATTENDING MEETING INCLUDED COMMUNIST PARTY OF LEBANON (CPL); COMMUNIST ACTION ORGANIZATION; PRO-IRAQI BAATH PARTY; NATIONAL SOCIAL PARTY (I.E., PPS); THE "NASSERIST ORGANIZATION - CORRECTIVE MOVEMENT" (LED BY 'ISSAM AL 'ARAB); AND MAKASSED ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. KAMAL JUMBLATT HELD SEPARATE MEETING OF HIS PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) JULY 3 AND LATER JOINED IN CRITICISM OF COMPOSITION OF KARAME CABINET, CLAIMING "NATIONAL (LEFTIST) MOVEMENT" IS NOT REPRESENTED AND THAT KARAME IS HIS SOLE FRIEND IN CABINET. JUMBLATT IS WIDELY REPORTED TO HAVE STATED THAT HE SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO RESTORE PUBLIC ORDER. JUMBLATT IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 4 AT 0900Z WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO OUTLINE THE PSP POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE GOVT. IN SOME
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DETAIL.

5. SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, ALL AMCITS (WITH EXCEPTION COL MORGAN) REMAIN SAFE. IN VIEW OF IMPROVED LOCAL CONDITIONS, WE PERMITTING EMBASSY STAFF TO USE THEIR OWN DISCRETION IN FREQUENTING SAFE AREAS OF TOWN, PROVIDED THEY RETURN TO HOMES BY 2200 HOURS. AT THIS TIME, TRAVEL OUTSIDE BEIRUT IS LIMITED TO DAMOUR TO SOUTH, BYBLOS TO NORTH, AND BEITADDINE TO EAST.
GODLEY

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